

GLOSSARY**ENURESIS**

Involuntary urination

SEMINOMA

A malignant tumor of the testis thought to arise from primordial germ cells

CRYPTORCHIDISM

A congenital disorder where one or both of a newborn baby's testicles fail to descend into the scrotum

should be carefully monitored in order to identify clinically significant prostate cancer. They also highlight the need for long-term prospective trials investigating the effect of testosterone therapy on prostate cancer incidence.

Tamsin Osborne

Original article Parsons JK *et al.* (2005) Serum testosterone and the risk of prostate cancer: potential implications for testosterone therapy. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* **14**: 2257–2260

Enuresis alarm alone as effective as alarm with drugs

In contrast to previous findings, a new study by Naitoh and colleagues in Japan has shown that alarm monotherapy is just as effective as alarm and drug combination therapy at treating monosymptomatic primary nocturnal ENURESIS.

The authors divided 105 enuretic patients (76 boys and 29 girls, aged 6 to 13 years) into three treatment groups: alarm therapy alone ($n=37$), combination therapy with alarm and desmopressin ($n=35$), and combination therapy with alarm and imipramine ($n=33$). Patients kept an enuresis diary which was assessed at hospital visits every 1.5 months. The efficacy of the treatments was evaluated at 3 and 6 months from the start of the study.

When the team statistically analyzed the results, they found that the frequency of wet nights had significantly decreased in all three groups, but there were no significant differences among the groups. The improvement rates were greater in the combination-therapy groups, while the cure rates were greater and the relapse rates lower in the alarm monotherapy group. The authors concluded that there are no advantages in combination therapy over monotherapy. Predictive factors were investigated but none was identified.

The main improvements in the monotherapy group occurred during the first 3 months of treatment, with little improvement seen over the following 3 months. Based on their findings, the authors advocate treating patients with alarm therapy initially, but considering other therapies if insufficient improvement is seen after 3 months of treatment.

Tamsin Osborne

Original article Naitoh Y *et al.* (2005) Combination therapy with alarm and drugs for monosymptomatic nocturnal enuresis not superior to alarm monotherapy. *Urology* **66**: 632–635

Androgen-receptor mutations in testicular cancer

Garolla *et al.* report a high prevalence of mutations of the androgen-receptor (AR) gene in young patients with testicular cancer in Italy. An association between AR gene mutations and testicular cancer has previously been proposed, because of the known increased risk of testicular cancer in patients with androgen insensitivity syndrome. Furthermore, epidemiologic studies have suggested that the number of CAG and GGC repeats in the AR gene might also be implicated in the development of testicular cancer.

The authors used polymerase chain reaction to analyze AR gene mutations and CAG and GGC repeat number in 123 testicular cancer patients with stage I tumors, and compared the results with those from age-matched controls.

AR gene mutations were found in three patients (2.4%), two of which were novel mutations. These patients all had SEMINOMA and none had a history of CRYPTORCHIDISM, a known risk factor. The authors found no AR mutations in 300 fertile control subjects, suggesting a specific association with testicular cancer.

No significant differences were seen in the CAG and GGC repeat lengths in testicular cancer patients compared with control subjects; however, when the investigators looked at the joint distribution of CAG and GGC repeats they observed a significant difference between those in testicular cancer patients and controls, suggesting that certain CAG and GGC haplotypes might be associated with an increased risk of testicular cancer.

Tamsin Osborne

Original article Garolla A *et al.* (2005) Molecular analysis of the androgen receptor gene in testicular cancer. *Endocr Relat Cancer* **12**: 645–655

Efficacy of prophylactic levofloxacin in cancer patients with neutropenia

A prospective, multicenter, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial provides compelling evidence of the benefits of